



**Testimony of Alexander H. Hogan, MD, MS, Attending Physician,
Division of Hospital Medicine at Connecticut Children's Medical Center,
to the Judiciary Committee
Regarding HB 6321, *An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the
Connecticut Parentage Act*
March 8, 2021**

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, members of the Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. My name is Dr. Alexander Hogan and I am a Pediatric Hospital Medicine physician at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. I am proud to testify in support of *House Bill 6321, An Act Concerning the Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act*. The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) will update the state's parentage law to promote the security of all children. Currently, Connecticut's parentage law is outdated and leaves many children without the protection of a legal relationship with their parents. The CPA will correct harmful gaps in current Connecticut law, and help to align the law to the realities of modern families. Most importantly, the CPA will protect children and enable parents to provide the necessary security for their family.

My perspective on this issue starts with my own family. My daughter arrived unexpectedly nearly two months before her due date. Born weighing only four pounds, she was quickly whisked off to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to be placed on a ventilator. I followed her because decisions had to be made about her care: Does she need brain imaging? Should it be done with or without sedation? Should the team attempt another IV, or use her umbilical cord for access? There was never a question of if I was allowed to answer these questions because I was married to her birth mother, in a heterosexual relationship. I did not have to adopt my daughter to be allowed at her bedside, or make critical medical decisions on her behalf, because the law was written with my family unit in mind: a "traditional" married couple.

As a Pediatric Hospital Medicine physician, I have seen firsthand the multitudes of family arrangements that exist to cocoon children in their times of need. Per the US 2020 census, 30% of children do not live in traditional nuclear families. Greater than two million US children are being raised by gay or lesbian parents. Children thrive when they have permanent caregivers providing nurturing, protection, support and love, regardless of the family structure (Perrin et al. 2013). A child who is sick without a parent at the bedside due to an unjust law is exactly what the CPA will prevent. As a physician specializing in Pediatric Hospital Medicine, I have seen delays in care as a direct result of a lack of clarity around medical decision capacity and this law will help prevent those harms.

The CPA will protect children. The law must be updated to keep pace with the diversity of modern families. At my daughter's birth I was fortunate that everyone assumed that my wife and I were married. If we were unmarried, had engaged in surrogacy, or if we were a gay or lesbian couple, the privileges afforded me to be at my daughter's bedside, to make critical decisions on her behalf, may not have been allowed. This is unjust and must be fixed by passing the CPA.

I urge you to support House Bill 6321. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.